



Oral History Collections

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park has three oral history collections. The majority of the Hensley Settlement Collection was created soon after the park was established, in 1960, with some interviews in 1970 and two added in the last 2 years by historian Martha Wiley. The 50th Anniversary and Employee Collections have been gathered in the past four years by Wiley.

All interviews are available, either on a CD or in transcript form.

Hensley Settlement Collection (majority 1960-1970)

This collection contains the narratives of residents of Hensley Settlement, collected soon after the park was established. The topics covered include the lifestyles and buildings of Hensley.

Sherman Hensley	Wallace and Stella Hensley
Herbert Hensley	Park Hensley
Gilbert Hensley	Lige Gibbons
Nancy Gibbons	Jess Gibbons
Dorothy Greene Muncey	Hazel Thomas
Herbert Thompson	Hillary Wilder
Anna Scott Hensley (2010)	Nancy Gibbons Taylor (2011)

50th Anniversary Collection (2008-present)

This collection contains the memories of people who either lived or worked in the park lands before the park was established or were instrumental in creating and/or dedicating the park. Topics covered follow the name of the narrator.

Jean Ausmus

Teacher at Dark Ridge School in the 1940s, located on 988 across from pull-out with wayside.

Gary Burchett

Resident of Cumberland Gap when the park was established.

Albert Earle

Volunteer at the park; present at the 1959 dedication.

Ann Estep

Lifetime resident of Cumberland Gap; discusses changes in area since the 1950s.

Betty Jo Goforth Pittman

Grew up in the house that was at the intersection of the Tennessee and Wilderness Roads.

Betty Hayes

Lifetime resident of Middlesboro; instrumental in gathering support for the park in the 1950s

Harry Hoe

Chairman of park dedication committee; met with Pres. Eisenhower about establishing the park

Clarence Lambdin

Lifetime resident of the area

Marvin Mayhall

Participated in the dedication parade in 1959

Ernest Mike

Drove the car with Vice President Nixon in the 1959 dedication parade

Ed Morrison

Lifetime resident of the area

Roger Rhodes/Joey Beason

Families grew up in the Dark Ridge area of the park

Claude and Ann Seals

Live in Ewing and worked with the Chadwell Gap Coal Company (coke ovens)

Freda VanBever

Waitressed at the Cumberland Mountain Motel and Cottages

Rosalie Walker

Waitressed at the Cumberland Mountain Hotel and Cottages

Hershel Whitaker

Installed the geodetic survey markers at the Pinnacle in 1950.

Park Employee Collection (2008-present)

This collection contains the narratives of people who have worked for the park in various capacities over the past 50 years. The topics covered include the Job Corps, interpretive activities at Hensley in the 1980s, working at the park in the 1950s, and working in facility management, interpretation, and law enforcement over the years.

Richard Beeler

Fred Boyles

Fred Branham

William Carter

Charles Chadwell

Virginia Huff

Ann Justice (husband Glenn)

Janice Miracle

Gary Ramsey

Tom Shattuck (concession)

James Thomas

Carlie Thompson